

FIVE QUESTIONS
ONE MISSION

BETTER LIVES FOR KENTUCKY'S PEOPLE



2004 - 05 KENTUCKY POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

THE FIVE QUESTIONS

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?
2. Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for its citizens?
3. Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?
4. Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?
5. Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?

INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education is required by statute to submit an annual accountability report to the Governor, the Legislative Research Commission, and the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education. The purpose of this report is to inform policy makers, legislators, and taxpayers of the progress made in advancing the Public Agenda and the goals of the *Kentucky Education Improvement Act of 1997*, or HB 1.

This Executive Summary provides a snapshot of the performance of Kentucky's public, postsecondary system in 2004-05. It is organized by the five questions of the Public Agenda, which focus on issues of access, affordability, productivity, quality, and economic well being. The key findings of this report are as follow:

Question 1: Kentucky's K-12 and adult education systems are ramping up to supply more graduates to the postsecondary pipeline. Still, Kentucky must make greater improvements to catch up with competitor states.

Question 2: Kentucky postsecondary education remains affordable compared to other states, but rising costs are cause for concern, particularly for individuals least able to pay.

Question 3: Kentucky postsecondary institutions are enrolling and graduating more students than ever, despite tuition increases and declining state appropriations per student.

Question 4: Kentucky's college graduates perform well on licensure and professional examinations, but performance by undergraduates in a national pilot study were mixed.

Question 5: Kentucky is expanding its research and development capacity faster than surrounding states but remains well below the national average.

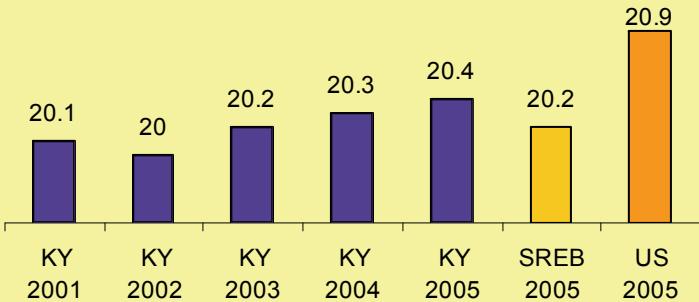
This Executive Summary deals only with the system's progress as a whole. Progress on institutional key performance indicators can be found in the full report at <http://cpe.ky.gov/planning/statusreports/05accreport.htm>. We encourage you to periodically review our Web site for the most current information on postsecondary accountability and performance.





QUESTION 1

1.1. Average ACT scores of Kentucky high school students

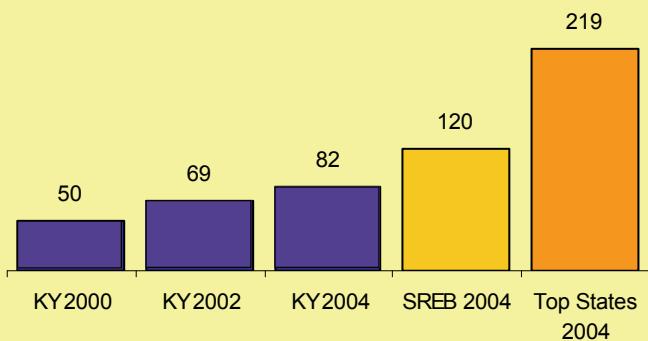


Source: State and National ACT Reports

Status: Making Progress

Kentucky's average ACT score continues to inch closer to the nation's. The state's average score in 2005 (20.4) was just five-tenths shy of the national average (20.9) and better than the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) average of 20.2. However, the number of test-takers has remained relatively flat over the last five years. More students need to take the ACT if we hope to reach the national average in educational attainment.

1.2. High school students scoring three or higher on AP exams per 1,000 juniors and seniors



Source: Measuring Up State Report Cards

Status: Making Progress

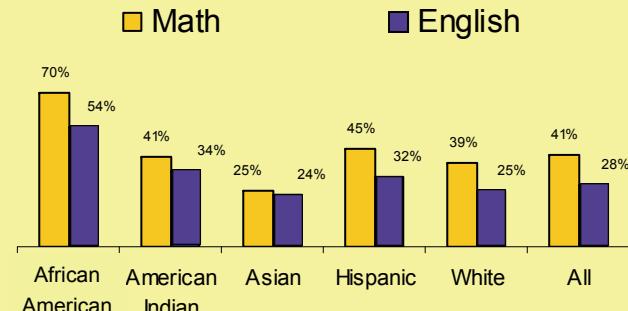
In 2004, there were 12,340 AP test takers in Kentucky, nearly 8 percent more than the previous year. Not only are more students taking AP exams, more are scoring well enough to earn college credit (three or higher on a five-point scale). Still, the gap between Kentucky and top performing states remains a concern, indicating that our pre-college curriculum may need to be more rigorous.

Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

Status: New Indicator

Kentucky adopted this indicator to track how many incoming college freshmen need remediation. Scoring 18 or less in math or 17 or less in English on the ACT qualifies a student for developmental courses.

1.3. Percent of incoming Kentucky high school graduates who are underprepared for college

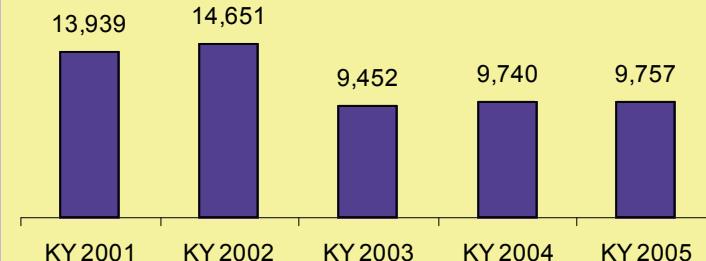


Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

Status: Holding Steady

Even if every high school senior went directly to college, the state still would fall short of its goal to double the number of bachelor's degree holders by 2020. We must produce more GED graduates to significantly expand the pool of potential college students. GED attainment has risen steadily since 2003, but has not rebounded to levels achieved before the GED test was revised in 2002. Kentucky Adult Education must continue to increase the number of GED test-takers.

1.4. Number of Kentuckians earning a GED



Source: Oklahoma Scoring Services

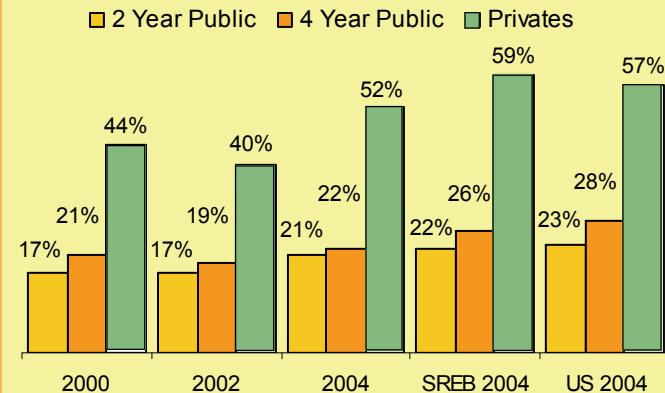


QUESTION 2

Status: Holding Steady

Kentucky postsecondary education remains affordable for full-time, traditional students when compared to the region and the nation. The exception is part-time, adult students, who do not have ready access to financial aid.

2.1. Annual net cost as a percent of median family income

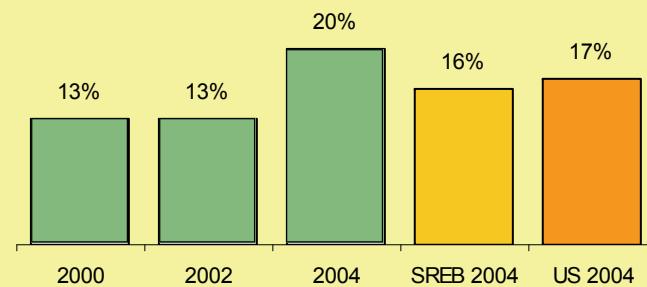


Source: *Measuring Up State Report Cards*

Status: Losing Ground

Keeping college affordable is critical to attracting students from families least able to pay. The cost of attending a community or technical college in Kentucky now takes about 20 percent of a disadvantaged family's income, exceeding both the regional and national average.

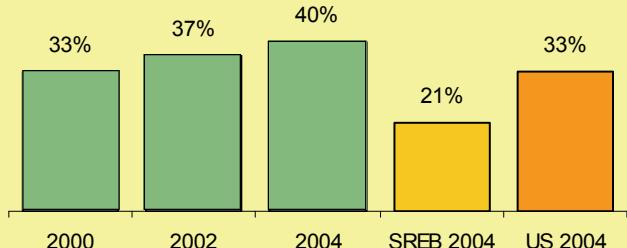
2.2. Percent of income needed for low-income families at the lowest-priced public institution



Source: *Measuring Up State Report Cards*

Is Kentucky education affordable for its citizens?

2.3. State investment in need-based financial aid as a proportion of federal Pell Grant spending



Source: Measuring Up State Report Cards

Status: Making Progress

Over the past decade, the state has increased its investment in need-based financial aid significantly. In 2004, Kentucky's investment in need-based financial aid as a proportion of federal Pell Grant spending was nearly double that of Southern Regional Education Board states and nearly seven percentage points higher than the U.S. average.

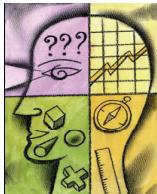
2.4. Average loan amount of undergraduates



Source: Measuring Up State Report Cards

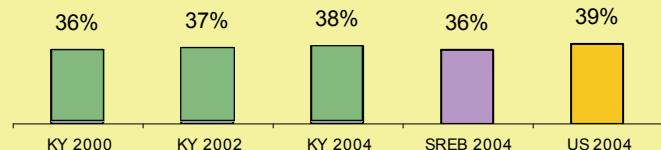
Status: Holding Steady

The average loan amount of Kentucky undergraduates in 2004 was actually lower than in 2000. These figures include federal loans only (Stafford, Perkins, and Parent-Plus), which comprise more than 90 percent of the funds students borrow to attend college.



QUESTION 3

3.1. Ninth graders' chance for college by age 19

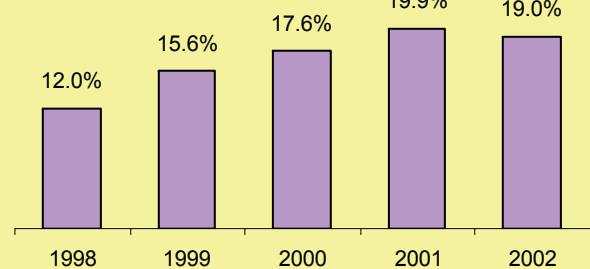


Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity

Status: Making Progress

About 38 percent of all ninth graders are likely to enroll in a Kentucky college by age 19. Kentucky continues to improve on this measure and is now closing in on the national average.

3.2. Percent of GED graduates enrolling in postsecondary education within two years

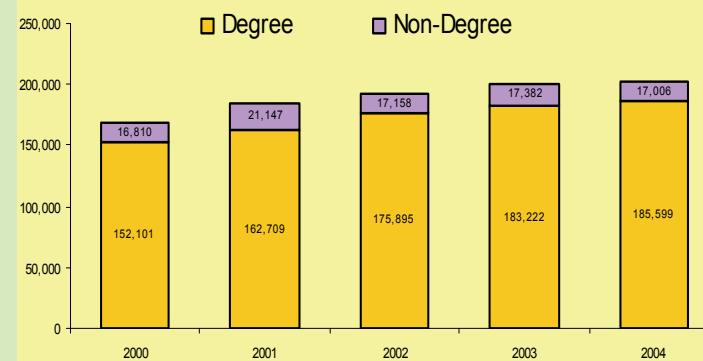


Source: KYAE, Comprehensive Database

Status: Making Progress

Kentucky has made great strides in helping more GED graduates transition to postsecondary study over the past five years, though the percentage declined slightly in 2002.

3.3. Kentucky undergraduate enrollment



Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

Status: Making Progress

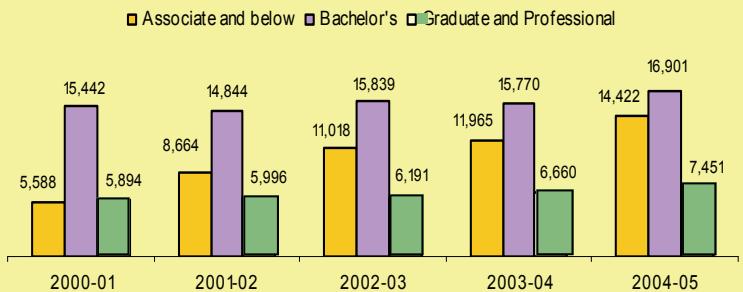
Postsecondary enrollment continued to rise, with the two-year public sector experiencing the most dramatic growth.

Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?

Status: Making Progress

Kentucky's graduate and first-professional enrollment increased 1.8 percent from 2003 to 2004, continuing its steady, upward climb. Increasing the number of graduate degrees is crucial to the state's long-term economic development.

3.5. Number of degrees and other credentials awarded



Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

Status: Making Progress

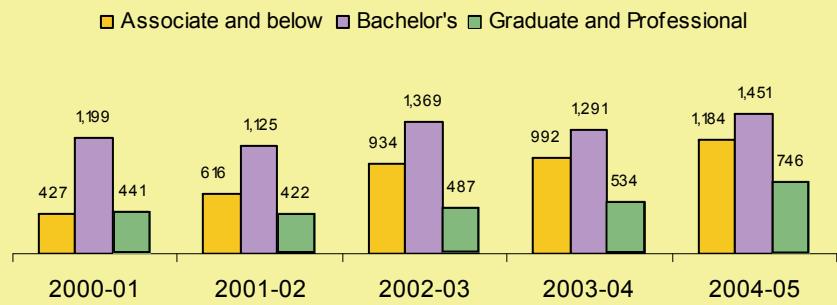
Degree production in 2004-05 was up 9% over the previous year and has increased 45% since 2000-01. Progress has been made at every level, with the community and technical college sector experiencing the biggest growth.

3.4. Kentucky graduate and first-professional enrollment



Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

3.6. Number of degrees and other credentials awarded to minority students



Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

Status: Making Progress

The number of degrees awarded to racial-ethnic minorities has risen dramatically, 7% over the previous year and 68 percent over the past four years. The largest growth occurred at the associate level and below.



QUESTION 4

Public Four-Year Institutions Status: New Indicator

Kentucky was one of five states selected to participate in the National Forum on College-Level Learning's Student Learning Pilot, a testament to Kentucky's leadership in the national accountability arena. The College Learning Assessment (CLA) provides nationally comparable data on the performance of undergraduates at our public universities. The 2003 data from the pilot should be interpreted with caution due to the low number of respondents and other methodological issues.

KCTCS Institutions Status: New Indicator

Student learning at the community and technical college level was also examined during the pilot project. The WorkKeys assessment, developed by ACT to measure the skills of community and technical college students, was recommended for use by all states. In the pilot project, students from KCTCS scored above the national benchmarks in all four sections of WorkKeys, showing particular strength in writing and reading.

Table 4.1. Number of Percentage Points Above and Below National Benchmarks

CLA (Kentucky Public Four-Year Institutions)		WorkKeys (KCTCS)					
		Problem Solving	Writing	Reading	Quantitative Skills	Local Information	Writing
Kentucky		-18%	-13%	15%	9%	7%	104%
Illinois		16%	2%	6%	-3%	5%	43%
Nevada		NA	NA	-13%	-22%	-26%	-37%
Oklahoma		3%	15%	-7%	-1%	4%	-17%
South Carolina		5%	-1%	13%	4%	10%	-52%

Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?

Graduate School Entrance Exams and Licensure Pass Rates

Status: New Indicator

Students' performance on licensure and graduate school admissions exams is a strong indication of their readiness for life and work. Licensure exams directly measure students' employability in their chosen fields. In most cases, these measures also provide a useful comparison to other states. Kentucky licensure pass rates exceed national pass rates in most areas, ranging from 67 to 100 percent. Kentucky has a strong track record in educating future health care providers, in particular. Graduate school entrance exam data (such as the GMAT, LSAT, GRE, and MCAT) are not currently available at the statewide level, but the Council is working to obtain this information. Large fluctuations in licensure pass rates from one year to the next may be due to a small number of test-takers.

Table 4.2. Graduate School Entrance Exams and Licensure Pass Rates

Graduate Exam or Licensure	Pass Rate Previous Year	Pass Rate Most Recent Year	National Pass Rate
NCLEX Pass Rates—Baccalaureate (2004-05)	94%	91%	85%
NCLEX Pass Rates—Associate (2004-05)	90%	90%	85%
NCLEX Pass Rates— Practical Nursing (2004-05)	89%	95%	90%
Physical Therapist Licensing Examination (2004-05)	83%	67%	72%
National Council for Examiners for Engineering Exam, Part 1 (2004-05)	86%	75%	76%
Kentucky Bar Exam (2004-05)	69%	72%	N/A
National Dental Board Exam, Part 2 (2004-05)	92%	98%	94%
North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (2003-04)	100%	100%	N/A
US Medical Licensure Exam, Part 2 (2003-04)	95%	94%	92%
American Registry of Radiologic Technicians (2003-04)	85%	91%	89%
National Board for Respiratory Care Exam (2003-04)	81%	91%	74%



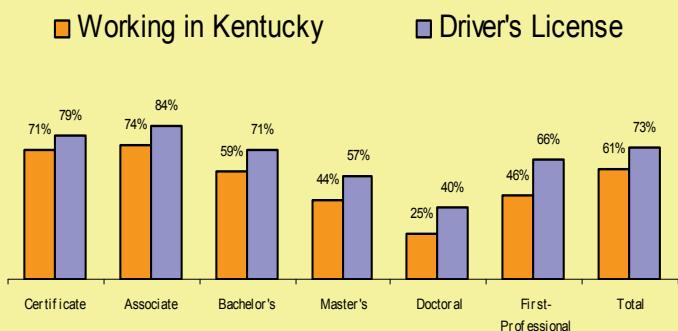
QUESTION 5

5.1. Extramural research and development expenditures per capita



Source: National Science Foundation

5.2 Graduates from Kentucky postsecondary institutions five years after graduation



Source: CPE Comprehensive Database, KY Unemployment and Driver's License Data

Status: Making Progress

Kentucky's rate of growth in research and development expenditures well exceeded the region's and nation's over the past five years. Still, Kentucky must almost double its performance to reach the national average on this measure.

Status: New Indicator

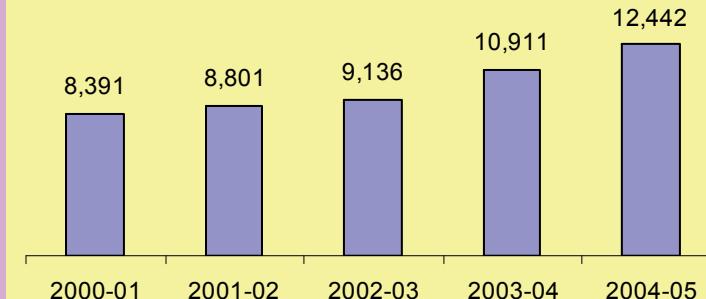
Kentuckians have long complained of a "brain drain," where the most talented young people leave the state to pursue postsecondary education or employment. This measure is designed to monitor the state's success in retaining its most valuable economic asset—an educated workforce—five years after graduation. It includes both resident and non-resident students who attended a Kentucky postsecondary institution.

Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?

Status: Making Progress

This indicator tracks the number of degrees produced each year in fields most essential to a thriving knowledge economy, such as engineering, computer and information technology, mathematics and statistics, and health-related professions. Kentucky's degree production in focus fields has increased 73 percent since the year 2000.

5.3. Degree and other credential production in focus fields

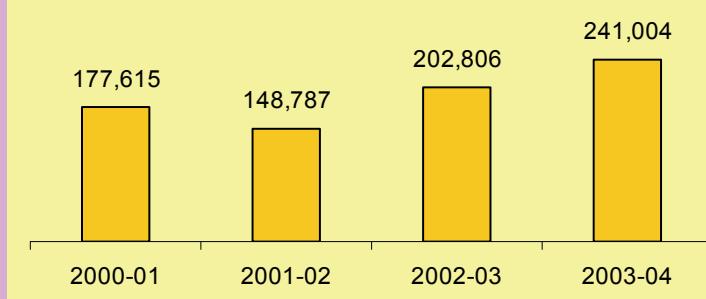


Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

Status: Making Progress

Kentucky Adult Education and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are the primary providers of workforce training and assessments to employers, an important economic development tool. In general, growth over the four-year period was driven by increases in essential skills and credit-based training, as employee skill assessments are on the decline.

5.4. Workforce Training and Assessment



Source: KYAE and KCTCS comprehensive databases